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# *The MCA Advisory*

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*The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America*

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**Volume 11 Number 10**

**November 2008**

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**Dues: \$20.00/Year \$35.00/2 years**

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## **MCA Calendar**

January 7-11 <sup>th</sup>	New York International
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	MCA Meeting at NYI
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Stacks' Peace Medal Sale

**What's New on Our Website!**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH**



## From the Editor

Congratulations to our founder, Dave Alexander, on being elected a fellow of the American Numismatic Society. Dave's contributions to the hobby have been immense. Indeed, on the day of the award Dave was at the Society to mount a special exhibit on the New York Numismatic Club.

Our January meeting will feature a panel chaired by John Sallay on "Technology and Numismatics." The subject is a timely one and John's leadership will assure that the many relevant ideas are presented. The date is Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The time is noon. The place is the New York International show held, as always, at the Waldorf Astoria.

## Indian Peace Medal Sale

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, at some time during the middle of the day, Stacks' will auction the John W. Adams collection of Indian peace medals. The catalogue, which will be mailed to all MCA members, has been written by the inimitable Michael Hodder. Whether or not interested in buying lots, medal enthusiasts will be interested in Michael's comments on such rarities as the 1693 Louis XIV dynasty medal in gold, the Louis XV Honos and Virtue, the Spanish Al Merito and the Virginia Happy While United (last seen in 1933!).

## Indian Peace Medals in the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (by Max B. Spiegel)

On the third floor of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian is an unassuming one-case exhibit that displays, among a few tomahawks, several Indian peace medals from their collection. The variety is dramatic: an impressive 1792 George

Washington medal engraved is displayed next to a modern restrike of a Thomas Jefferson medal. Several other presidents are represented, and a few medals are accompanied by intricately beaded pouches or suspended from necklaces made with teeth or claws. Nonetheless, these medals represent only a fraction of the museum's collection.

Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) absorbed the enormous collection of George Gustav Heye, who had founded the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation in New York City in 1916. Heye, a wealthy New Yorker, spent his life acquiring anything and everything relating to American Indians, and eventually accumulated approximately 800,000 objects before his death in 1957. These pieces form the cornerstone of the National Museum of the American Indian, which now operates museums in New York and Washington, D.C., as well as a Cultural Resources Center in Maryland.

Most of the peace medals in the NMAI were originally part of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, and the collections were merged in 1990. In October 1994 the George Gustav Heye Center of the National Museum of the American Indian was opened at the Alexander Hamilton Customs House in lower Manhattan. Several years later the museum began a tremendous project to move the more than 800,000 objects stored in the so-called Research Branch in the Bronx, opened by the former Museum of the American Indian, to a special storage facility called the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland. The move was completed in June 2004 and has allowed for better storage and easier access. Some of the peace medals, which for a while had been inaccessible to researchers, are now showcased in the *Windows on Collections* exhibit in Washington, D.C., with the rest safely housed in the Cultural Resources Center.

Pat Nietfeld, the Collections Manager of the NMAI has graciously provided me with a document detailing all of the peace medals—and other medals—that they possess. There are 57 medals in the NMAI collection, ranging from rare and important early peace medals to the more mundane. A closer inspection of the museum's holdings is warranted, but suffice it to say that there are some truly extraordinary medals in the collection.

Besides the 1792 George Washington Peace Medal on display, which the museum says was awarded on March 13, 1792 "at a conference in Philadelphia between a delegation of the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge tribes and President Washington, the secretary of war, the governor of Pennsylvania, and others," the NMAI has two peace medals from the Treaty of Greenville, signed on August 3, 1795. Some believe that these extremely rare engraved oval peace medals were presented to the Indians after they signed the treaty which marked the cessation of hostilities with General Wayne. Others believe that they are fabrications. Another interesting piece in the collection is an Andrew Jackson peace medal, which had been carefully engraved "Seneca White" after it was presented to the Seneca Iroquois chief. In addition to the United States Indian peace medals, there are several British peace medals in the collection.

Perhaps just as interesting as the medals themselves is the documentation that gives the provenance and description of each. An engraved brass medal in the collection is accompanied by the following description: "Presented by Colonial Secretary Edward Rawson to the chiefs of those loyal tribes who aided the Colonists during King Philip's War. Awarded at Council, June 20, 1676. Design shows semi-nude woman in feather dress; similar to design adopted for seal of Massachusetts Bay Colony." One large size George III peace medal was presented to the Michilimackinac Indians in Michigan but was

subsequently taken by the U.S. Major Andrew Foster at Fort Miami sometimes in the early 1790s, possibly in exchange for a United States Indian peace medal.

Now that the medals in the collection of the National Museum of the American Indian are accessible to researchers, there is the possibility for a more extensive study and survey to be done of their holdings. These pieces have come to the museum (and the Heye Foundation) from a variety of sources—including some familiar numismatic names—and they represent an important part of American Indian history. The significant holdings deserve further study and analysis having been unavailable for so many years. I, for one, intend to visit the Cultural Resources Center to examine the peace medals not on display at the museum in Washington, D.C.

**[Between budget limitations on the Foundation and accession of the collection by the Smithsonian, Heye material has been unavailable for many years.--ed.]**

## **Thoughts on 100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens**

(by Q. David Bowers)

Here are some thoughts based on the two separate comments in the latest issue of the *MCA Advisory*.

With regard to *The 100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens*, it was nice to know that the "mainstream release" of this book plus Katie Jaeger's other book have brought medals (and presumably tokens) into the mainstream!

With regard to the unrelated editorial note on page 3, which also mentions the book, here are some of my thoughts as to why medals and tokens were grouped together in the same book—rather than having one book for medals and another for tokens.

When the book was being planned, the combination seemed to make the most sense. There really is no definition as to the difference between, say, a small medal, sometimes called a medalet, and a token. Take, for example, the long and illustrious series of medalets (or tokens) from dies by George H. Lovett and issued by Augustus B. Sage in late 1858 through 1859. Russell Rulau in his *Standard Catalog of U.S. Tokens* calls them *tokens* and lists them all, along with many other items that I would probably call *medalets*. Further, certain items that I think are more properly small medals are collected as *tokens* and are listed as part of the Civil War token series, but yet I'm not quite sure they are tokens.

Certain small productions featuring, for example, Washington, are listed as medals by Bob Julian in his book on Mint *medals*. And yet token collectors call them tokens.

Perhaps a quick definition for a token is that it was issued as a monetary substitute that could be exchanged for goods or services. On the other hand, a medal could be said to be commemorative in nature, and not used as money in trade. However, we do have such things as admission passes to Peale's Museum which look like medals to me, but yet can be called tokens, and so on.

And then we also have the name of the Token and Medal Society—one society combining both of these terms.

Accordingly, it was felt by Katie Jaeger and me, along with Whitman, that combining tokens and medals would be a good idea. Only one person felt strongly differently, this being my fine friend Dick Johnson, who felt that it should be medals only. No one else voiced such an opinion.

In any event, the book brings together some medals, some tokens, and some pieces which you can classify in either category. The selection was made by sending out nomination forms to a wide selection of established collectors, dealers, and authors, for whom Whitman had addresses. Also, publicity was

given concerning it, and anyone interested was invited to participate.

When the nominations were received they were tallied by the Whitman staff, and the resulting list from 1 to 100 given to Katie Jaeger and me. Apart from whatever our personal votes may have been, we had no hand at all in the selection. This was strictly a popular vote. If a medal landed in a certain position it was because the voters wanted it that way. My own personal list of the top 100 would have been different, and I am sure the same could be said for any person reading this letter (if you publish it).

I was very pleased to see the Columbia and Washington medal listed as 31. I have admired this medal for a long time, and consider it to be one of the most historic of all American issues. Indeed, I believe the Massachusetts Historical Society calls it its *foremost* numismatic treasure. **[I believe that they treasure the Washington Webster set of Comitia Americana's a tad more.—ed.]**

However, this particular medal falls into never-never land, inasmuch as it is not a Mint medal and therefore not listed by Bob Julian, it did not make the Betts compilation as it was not struck in Colonial times, and Loubat did not list it as, apparently, it was not backed by a legislative resolution (or perhaps he was simply not aware of it). In any event, it is to the credit of all the voters that this particular medal, which *has* been showcased now and again in auctions, came to earn status as a finalist.

There was any number of surprises when Katie and I received this list. I had quite forgotten about the Micmac medal, the first to depict George Washington. Again, this was voted into the top 100.

After the book was published, several people mentioned to me that OPA ration tokens should not have been listed. Again, I neither nominated them nor voted for them, but apparently those who voted considered these tokens to be a vital part of American history. Indeed, they are.

All of the preceding said, I believe the book covers this topic of tokens and medals in a fairly comprehensive way. More than just a few people said that after reading they now understood these subjects, which earlier had been esoteric.

I'll send this along to Katie Jaeger and Dennis Tucker in case they want to add or delete from my comments.

All good wishes.

Dave Bowers

cc: Katie Jaeger  
Dennis Tucker

## Letters to the Editor

Dear John,

I thought MCA Advisory readers might find color illustrations, particularly of lot 88, to be of special interest.

The following press release provides information on how they may be obtained. I would be happy to underwrite any additional costs incurred.

All best,

George Kolbe

We would like to draw the attention of your readers to several highlights of our upcoming numismatic literature public auction sales to be held in New York City on January 10, 2009 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in conjunction with the New York International Numismatic Convention. Illustrations for the items described below are accessible as TIFF files by going to our web site: [www.numislit.com](http://www.numislit.com); clicking on News Releases and Announcements; then clicking on the November 10, 2008 Full Text Press Release.

The highlights of two outstanding numismatic libraries are to be sold, both remarkable for their exceptionally fine overall condition. The first 72 page catalogue features 100 lots of rare and classic works on American numismatics, with some fifty full color illustrations. Lots 1-75 are from The Twinleaf Library and lots 76-100 are the property of several additional consignors. The second 108 page catalogue, with over one hundred full color illustrations, is comprised of 175 early printed numismatic books and classic titles on Italian coins and medals from the library of Dr. Ferdinando Bassoli of Turin, Italy, numbered from 101 to 275.

Further information on any of the lots that follow may be found in the two catalogues, both of which are accessible at our web site.

Lot 1 is an extremely rare original 1881 Frank Andrews work on U. S. Cents, 1816-57, one of only forty copies issued and one of as few as eight to ten copies known to have survived. It is the first work to cover the later date cents. The estimate is \$8,500. [Lot 1 TIFF]

Lot 41 is S. H. Chapman's Own Superb Plated 1921 J. M. Henderson auction sale catalogue, one of only a half dozen known and perhaps the finest to have survived. The 4 superb photographic plates depict outstanding United States large cents and half cents. The estimate is \$12,500. [Lot 41 TIFF]

Lot 88 features the first two works on American medals, published in the 1830s and arranged in a leather-bound volume and annotated by Charles Ira Bushnell, one of America's most famous 19th century numismatists. The estimate is \$5,000. [Lot 88 TIFF 88a & 88b]

Lot 94 is an extremely rare 1724 work attributed to Jonathan Swift entitled "A Defence of the Conduct of the People of Ireland in Their Unanimous Refusal of Mr. Wood's Copper Money." Again, it is from the Bushnell library and is prominently cited in Crosby's 1875 "Early Coins of America." No institutional copies of this rare second edition

were located. The estimate is \$5,000. [Lot 94 TIFF]

Lot 150 is an outstanding example of Guillaume Du Choul's illustrated 1555 & 1556 works on ancient Roman coins, religion, and military camps, bound in remarkable armorial leather-bound volume dated 1558. The estimate is \$10,000. [Lot 150 TIFF]

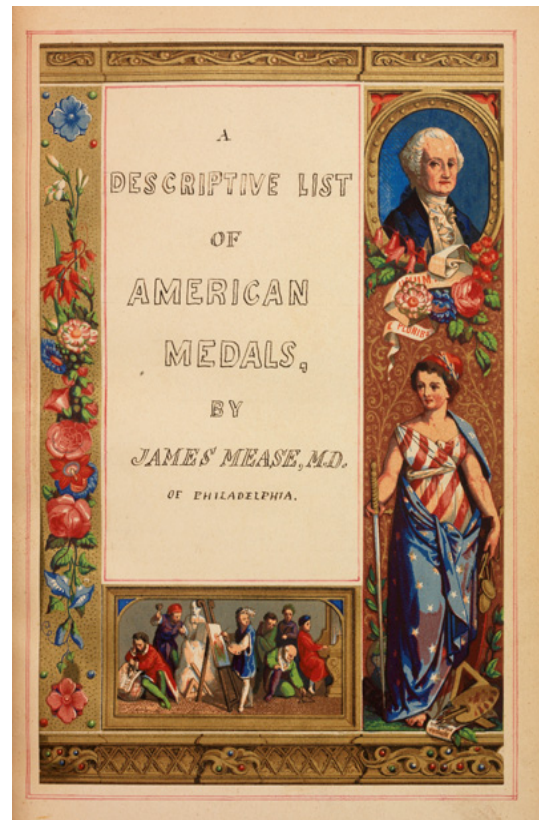
Lot 162 is the rare 1524 second edition of the first illustrated numismatic book, Andrea Fulvio's "Illustrium Imagines." Estimate \$4,500. [Lot 162 TIFF]

Lot 193 is a remarkable copy of Antoine Le Pois's well-illustrated 1579 work on ancient Greek, Jewish, and Roman coins in a superb French red morocco binding decorated in gilt, executed by one of the most famous Parisian bookbinders of the period. The estimate is \$8,500. [Lot 193 TIFF]

Lot 270 is an exceptionally fine set of the most comprehensive work ever written on the coinage of a single country, namely King Victor Emmanuel's monumental twenty folio volume set of "Corpus Nummorum Italicorum," published from 1910 to 1943. Dr. Bassoli's set is remarkable in that it features an original edition of the twentieth volume, a gift from the King's son. This final volume never advanced beyond the "proof" stage and perhaps a dozen or fewer copies are extant today. The estimate is \$12,500. [Lot 270 TIFF]

There are many other outstanding books in the two sale catalogues and, if desired, high quality images of other books depicted in the catalogues may be obtained by contacting Alan Meghrig at [tech1@numislit.com](mailto:tech1@numislit.com)

Thank you!



[We publish this release as a further inducement for members to attend the New York International. Lot88 is of special interest to many of us.—ed.]

Mr. Lopez,

I hope that you do not mind me writing to you. I purchased a couple of items off eBay from you about a year and a half ago, so that is where I got this e-mail address.

I read in the latest MCA Advisory about your disagreement with the "100 Greatest U.S. Medals and Tokens" and that you were interested in compiling a list of 100 greatest medals, sans tokens. I remember being a bit underwhelmed myself with some items when I received the book, since my interests lie squarely with historical medals. I also agree in general with the comments attributed to you in the Advisory and those posted by you on the PCGS boards back when the book was released a year ago. I am curious though, for such a list, how would you define "greatest"? I would assume that historical significance followed by



artistic quality would be most important? I myself have only been collecting U.S. medals for a couple of years, so I look forward to seeing what items would make this list as I broaden my knowledge.

I hope that this e-mail does not come as an unwarranted intrusion. I thank you for your time, and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Joe Marino

P.S. I must also say that I have greatly enjoyed the articles you have written for both the MCA Advisory and the Numismatist and anxiously await your future writing endeavors.

Joe,

Your e-mail is welcome of course. In the future though, please use [tonycharl@comcast.net](mailto:tonycharl@comcast.net).

I will define "Greatest" By majority vote, at least for now. I figure 100 pts for 1st place, 1 point for 100th. John Adams expressed my complaints tongue in cheek, by the way. I offered to come up with a list from MCA members, and so he was kidding around about it somewhat. I absolutely agree, however with his comments on the Daniel Morgan Medal, which to me is just a step away from Dupré's masterpiece the Libertas Americana. (And by the way for me the WBB comes in first place before the Libertas, with historic significance trumping beauty...just my opinion.)

In any event, just send me a list, greatest to least, and I'll take it from there. In the end, I don't want to decide, so am looking for a couple of volunteers to help me hash out the list.

Best,

Tony

Hello from Ottawa, Canada, Barry:

I have enjoyed browsing through the Medal Collectors of America web site. Very good. I collect some medals but that is not my chief field of interest. It is world coins, principally British India. I will think about joining Medal Collectors of America but I already belong to a number of associations so must set some limits. Does Medal Collectors of America focus mainly on medals of USA relevance, or are your members world wide medal collectors?

I am hoping you might find time to tell me about a medal I have. It is a bust of George III facing right, with his title in Latin, and the initials "I.M." following the legend.. It is uni face, 40 mm diameter, of copper or bronze, and I am told it is a "cliche". It is quite high relief but the workmanship, although ornate is not what I'd call fine. It is in nice shape and appears to be old but could it be, or is it more likely to be a modern imitation of an old, more valuable medal? Are cliche medals still made? Where might I find out more?

Thanks for any help you might be able to provide.

Respectfully,

Ron Cheek







John W. Adams,

Do you have, in your organization someone who is knowledgeable of medals awarded by Art Institutions (preferably gold)? If not, will you direct me to websites that have medals that were awarded to artists for a particular work of art by an art institution during an exhibition? Are there any books on these type of medals?

Thank you,

Denis Boyce

Gentlemen - Any thoughts? John

Dick Johnson,

Do you know the designer and maker of The Potter-Palmer Gold Medal given by The Art Institute of Chicago from 1910 to 1929?

Robert D. Leonard Jr. suggested that I contact you.

Thank you,

Denis Boyce

Denis:

The Potter-Palmer medal was created by Leonard Crunelle and struck by Medallic Art Company in 1910 where it is the firm's catalog number 10-2. If you are researching this medal I would be delighted to learn any facts you uncover about this medal.

I have taken the liberty to attach the entry on Leonard Crunelle from my artists databank. This may be useful to you in your research efforts.

Respectfully,

Dick Johnson

*Author, Editor, Senior Consultant*

139 Thompson Drive

Torrington, CT 06790

(860) 482-1103

Dick,

Wow! Robert D. Leonard Jr. said that if any one would know it would be you. If I can do anything for you in the Philadelphia area do not hesitate to ask. I will keep you posted on any developments.

Thank you,

Denis Boyce

The Entry On

# Leonard Crunelle

MEDALIST, SCULPTOR

FROM

American Artists:

*Diesinkers, Engravers, Medallists, Sculptors*

By D. WAYNE JOHNSON

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would be eagerly welcomed.



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**CRUNELLE, Leonard** (1872-1944) French-American sculptor, medalist.

Born Pas-de-Clais, France, 8 August 1872.

Created three Abraham Lincoln Statues (for Springfield,

Freeport, Dixon, all in Illinois). Exhibited extensively

Art Institute of Chicago, 46 items (1897-1918).

Died Chicago, Illinois, 10 September 1944.

Signed models with LC monogram or LC initials.

**R E L I E F S**

(1908 ca) Unknown Portrait Plaster Medallion . . . . .

Exhibited: Art Institute of Chicago **AE2** (1908) no. . 302

(1915 ca) Springtime Relief . . . . .

Exhibited: Art Institute of Chicago **AE2** (1915) no. . 478

**M E D A L S**

1910 Potter-Palmer Gold Medal (dates issued/

1910-1929). . . . . MAco **10-2**

1924 Landfair (Kate) Wausau High School Plaque MAco **24-37**

1929 Middlebury College Medal . . . . . MAco **29-16**

Auctions:. . . . . J&J 11:1503, J&J 13:31

1929 Women's Athletic Association Plaque . . . MAco **29-54**

1931 French (William M.R.) Plaque. . . . . MAco **31-4**

**W A T C H F O B S**

1915 University of Wisconsin Fob. . . . . MAco **15-23**

**R E F E R E N C E S**

**E3** {1902-30} Forrer **7:198**.

**Px** {1908} MacDougall (Isabel) Leonard Crunelle, Sculptor of Children. *Craftsman* **15:**  
(1908) pp 26-33.

**Px** {1909} Chicago Architectural Club Medal By Leonard Crunelle. *Monument News* **21:**  
(November 1909) p 826.

**D5** {1915} Earle, p 82.

**D8** {1926} Fielding, p 83.

**BA** {1937} Who's Who In American Art: 1937 [**1ed:106**], 1939 [**2ed:129**],  
1941 [**3ed:157**], 1947 [**4ed:585**, obit].

**P30** {1944} New York Times (12 September) 19:3 (obit).

**B2** {1950} Who Was Who, p 138.

**N16** {1967} Taxay, p 25 (name misspelled Grunelle).

**A18** {1974} Goode, p 310.

**BF1** {1985} Falk, p 141.

**D33** {1986} Opitz, p 192.

**AE1** {1988} Falk, **2:153**.

**AE2** {1990} Falk, Art Institute of Chicago, p 244.

**BF2** {1999} Falk. Who Was Who in American Art, p **1:787**.

**D3a** {2006} Benezit. Dictionary of Artists, p **4:237**.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name: .....  
Mailing Address:  
Street: .....  
City: ..... State: ..... Zip code: .....  
Telephone (Work): ..... (Home): .....  
Email: .....

### QUESTIONNAIRE

**How did you learn about the MCA?**

**What are your collecting interests?**

**What would you see highlighted in MCA publications?**

**For volunteers: I am willing to devote time to the following MCA projects:**

**DUES: \$20.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR (Includes a subscription to monthly publications of the MCA advisory)**

Please send completed application and payment to:

Medal Collectors of America  
c/o Barry Tayman  
3115 Nestling Pine Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Or email completed form to: [bdtayman@verizon.net](mailto:bdtayman@verizon.net)  
MCA WEBSITE: <http://www.medalcollectors.org>